Ban on polythene carry bags

597. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has proposed a ban on carry bags made of polythene of less than 20 microns on All India level;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has drawn a phased programme to this effect;

(c) whether many States had enforced such a ban earlier in selected urban/tourist pockets; and

(d) if so, the impact thereof on environmental pollution control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Central Government Notification S.O. 705 (E) dated 02-09-1999, the minimum thickness of carry bags shall not be less than 20 microns.

(b) The ban is effective from the date of the said notification, namely, 02-09-1999.

(c) and (d) A few States have imposed ban on use of plastic carry bags in selected cities including tourist places, sanctuaries and pilgrimage centres. This has reduced the littering of plastic bags in these pockets, thereby improving the surrounding environment.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Development of Forests

598. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Centrally sponsored schemes and programmes for development of forests in the country;

(b) the details of funds allotted to each State and Union Territory for these schemes and programmes during the year 2002-03; and

(c) the details of funds utilised by them?